

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

FAIR AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Trondheim, Norway, 4-5 June 2007

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Petter Aasen is director and senior researcher at Norwegian Institute for Studies in Research and Education – Centre for Innovation Studies (NIFU STEP) in Oslo. Previously he was professor in educational policy studies and Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology Management at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. His academic carrier has been divided between educational research and institutional and academic leadership. His research interests have included the relationship between society and education, educational research policy, the role of research in planning and policy making, and the relation between government policy and educational reforms. He has published extensively, most recently on the relationship between education and policy, education as nation building and educational reforms in Norway and Sweden.

John Bennett was director of the Early Childhood and Family unit at UNESCO from 1989-97. During these years he was official representative to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN Committee for the International Year of the Family. He joined the OECD as senior consultant to the Early Childhood Policy Review in 1998. In that capacity, he co-authored with various experts country analyses of ECEC policy and organisation, and with Michelle Neuman, authored a comparative work on early childhood policy in twelve countries entitled *Starting Strong: early childhood education and care*, which was published by the OECD in June 2001. From 2003-2006, he prepared with Professor Collette Tayler, QUT, *Starting Strong II*, a similar report on 20 countries, which was published by the OECD in September 2006. Dr. Bennett is author of many articles, including contributions to the International Encyclopaedia of Education, Encyclopaedia of the Social and Behavioural Sciences, International Journal of Children's Rights. He is also a member of several international juries and committees in the fields of early education and children's rights.

Aart Jan De Geus took up his duties as Deputy Secretary-General at the OECD in March 2007. Mr. de Geus, a Dutch national, was Minister of Social Affairs and Employment in the Netherlands from 2002 until 22 February this year. As Minister, Mr. de Geus introduced major reforms in the Dutch social security system, notably by turning it into an activating system where citizens, employers and local authorities take their own responsibilities. During the four years of his tenure, he concluded major national agreements with social partners on wages, reforms of social security and tax-facilities for early retirement. From 1998 until 2002, Mr. de Geus was a partner in an Amsterdam-based company for strategy and management, where he worked in the fields of health care, pensions and human resource development. Mr. de Geus served as vice-chairman of the executive board of the National Federation of Christian Trade Unions from 1993 to 1998, where he focused on social security, health care, pensions, labour market policy, income policy and education. He had been member of the Trade Union's executive board since 1988. Prior to that, Mr. de Geus worked as a lawyer in the industry sector of the Christian Trade Union. Mr. de Geus has a law degree from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and post-graduate studies in labour law from Nijmegen University.

Øystein Djupedal was appointed Minister of Education and Research in 2005. He is also responsible for Early Childhood Education and Care. Prior to this he was Deputy Chairman of the Socialist Left Party from 1997, and he has been a member of the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, since 1993. Øystein Djupedal has been a member of the Enlarged Foreign Affairs Committee, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, the Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs, the Norwegian delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the Norwegian delegation to Nordic Council,

the Executive Board of the Socialist Left Party parliamentary group, the Norwegian Group of the Inter-parliamentary Union and many others. Øystein Djupedal was born in 1960 and has a degree in Graphic Studies at Brundalen College.

Luisa Ferreira joined the EIB in 1999. She is currently a senior education economist, with specific responsibilities for economic appraisal of projects and research work in the education and social sectors. Between 2003 and 2004 she was a senior education analyst at the Education Directorate of the OECD, where she was responsible for a project on the role of education and training policy in promoting equity and social cohesion. Prior to joining the European Investment Bank she worked as a senior human resources economist at the World Bank (1992-1999), mainly involved in project and research work on education and social protection issues in Eastern Africa and Latin America. She also held teaching positions in Portugal at the Portuguese Catholic University and at the Universidade Nova de Lisbon and research positions in the USA. She graduated in economics from the Portuguese Catholic University (Portugal) and holds an MA and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Simon Field has worked since 2001 in the Directorate for Education, OECD on issues including equity in education, vocational education and training and human capital. His previous career in the UK civil service included a period heading the division for higher education, evaluation and international issues in the Department for Education and Skills, while in the Home Office he was responsible for creating and leading an Economics Unit, bringing the tools of economic analysis to bear on criminal justice issues. He has also taught and undertaken research at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA as a visiting professor. He has published extensively, most recently on equity in education, but historically on topics as diverse as how the weather affects crime patterns, and the effect of national lotteries on horse race betting. He holds a Ph. D. in philosophy and social policy from the University of Cambridge and an M. Sc. in Economics from Birkbeck College London. He was born and brought up in Belfast and holds both British and Irish citizenship.

Jørgen Frost has worked since 1994 as senior adviser at Bredtvet National Resource Centre, Oslo, and from 2005 he is also assistant professor at the University of Oslo (20%). He holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Copenhagen. Jørgen Frost has teacher education from 1967 and has many years experience as a teacher, consultant of reading, and as an educational psychologist. He is the author of several books on reading in the Nordic countries and of articles in international journals.

Eivind Heder has been Director General in the Ministry of Education and Research since 2002, and is head of the Department of Policy Analysis, Lifelong Learning and International Affairs. He served as deputy in the department from 2000. Prior to this Mr Heder, as deputy in the Department of Administrative Affairs, was in charge of and co-ordinated the Ministry's work on National Budget issues and on ICT in the education system. He started his career in the Ministry in the Department of Higher Education, dealing with engineering education, economy of state colleges, and planning of reconstruction and new buildings. Mr. Heder was project manager for the current system for allocation of public funding to Norwegian higher education institutions. In the academic year 1999-2000 Eivind Heder served as Visiting Scholar at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, dealing with ICT in education. He was born in 1961, and has a Masters degree in geology from the University of Oslo. He worked two years as a research assistant at the university.

Nancy Hoffman leads the activities of the Youth Cluster at Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national non-profit (NGO) located in Boston, Massachusetts (www.JFF.org). She directs the Early College High School Initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and manages other state policy initiatives. Early College High Schools are small schools from which students graduate in four to five years with a high school diploma and two years of tertiary education. Information about early colleges can be found at www.earlycolleges.org. She also guides JFF's work to make college opportunity affordable, an initiative of Lumina Foundation for Education. She has been a professor and administrator at Brown University, Temple University, and Harvard Graduate School of Education among others. Recent publications include, *Women's True Profession: Voices from the History of Teaching*, and, edited with Richard Kazis and Joel Vargas, "Double the Numbers": Increasing Postsecondary Credentials for Underrepresented Youth [both Harvard Education Publishing Group, 2003, 2004]. In Fall 2007, Harvard is also publishing

Minding the Gap: Why Integrating High School with College Makes Sense and How to Do It. Hoffman holds a PhD in comparative literature from University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara Ischinger is OECD Director for Education. Dr. Ischinger has held a range of senior international positions over the last 13 years in the fields of international co-operation and education, with a focus on Europe, the United States and Africa. Before joining the OECD, Dr. Ischinger was Executive Vice-President for International Affairs and Public Relations at Berlin Humboldt Universität (2000-2005). Her experience includes the reshaping of academic curricula and professional training to adjust them to the labour market conditions and social development. Between 1992-1994, she was a Director at UNESCO heading the Division of International Cultural Co-operation, Presentation and Enrichment of Cultural Identities. From 1994 to 2000, she was Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Germany. She holds a PhD from Heidelberg University and a post-doctoral degree from Cologne University in African Literature. Alongside her full-time appointments since 1993, she has been Adjunct Professor in the Institute of African Studies at Cologne University, where she has undertaken research and supervised MA and PhD theses.

Malgorzata Kuczera has worked as a Consultant in the Directorate for Education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2006 on issues of equity in education and vocational education and training. Previously, Malgorzata contributed to the work on efficiency and equity in education carried out by the European Commission. Malgorzata has a M.Sc in political science from Jagellonian University, Poland and a Master degree in International Administration of the University Paris I, Sorbonne-Panthéon. Malgorzata is of Polish nationality.

Ben Levin is Canada Research Chair in Education Leadership and Policy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. He has just completed a term as Deputy Minister (chief civil servant) for Education for the Province of Ontario. His career includes services in several senior government positions as well as a strong academic record as a university professor. He has managed extensive research projects, authored or co-authored 4 books and well over 100 articles, and has been a speaker, researcher, visiting professor and consultant in more than two dozen countries around the world. He wrote the main policy background paper for the Equity in lifelong Learning project of the OECD.

Ides Nicaise has a PhD in economics and wrote his PhD on 'Poverty and human capital'. He works since 1989 as a research manager, head of sector 'education and labour market policy' at HIVA (Hoger Instituut voor de Arbeid), a multidisciplinary research institute of the Catholic University of Leuven (Flemish Louvain). He further specialised in social policy, more precisely the relationships between education, labour market policy and social inclusion. He also has part-time teaching assignments at the Universities of Leuven (Dept of Education Sciences, Social Sciences and Law) and Antwerp (Univ. of Antwerp Management School). Besides his professional activities, he is chairing the Belgian Resource Centre for the Fight against Poverty, a centre created by law as an interface between the government, the civil society and grassroots organisations defending the interests of the poor. This centre is linked with the Centre for Equal Opportunities and for the Fight against Racism. He was involved in many projects at national, European and international levels dealing with education, ranging from educational funding to lifelong learning and initial education for socially excluded groups.

Beatriz Pont is an Analyst in the Directorate for Education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and is currently leading the activity on Improving School Leadership. At OECD, she has worked on a recent study on equity in education and led a large scale study on adult learning. She has contributed to a variety of OECD reports and studies on education policy issues such as *ICT and learning; supporting out of school youth and adults* (OECD, 2006), *Promoting adult learning* (OECD, 2005), *Beyond rhetoric: Adult learning policies and practices* (OECD, 2003); *Literacy in the Information Age* (OECD and Statistics Canada, 2001); *Education policy analysis* (OECD, 2001). Previously Beatriz was a researcher on education, training and active labour market policies at the Economic and Social Council of the Government of Spain and also worked for Andersen Consulting in Barcelona. Beatriz has a B.A in political science from Pitzer College, Claremont, California, holds a M. Sc. of International Affairs from Columbia University, and was a research fellow at the Institute of Social Science in Tokyo University

Richard Teese is Professor of Post-Compulsory Education and Training in the University of Melbourne. He is a specialist in student achievement, school programs, and transition to further education and work. Richard leads three large-scale longitudinal research projects on school leaver destinations in Australia. He has had a long career studying equity in school systems. His contributions to research and theory have included *Equity Outcomes* (1993), *Who Wins at School? Girls and Boys in Australian Secondary Education* (1995), *Academic Success and Social Power: Examinations and Inequality* (2000) and *Undemocratic Schooling: Equity and Quality in Mass Secondary Education in Australia* (2003) (with John Polesel). In 1994 his translation of *Academic Discourse* by Bourdieu, Passeron and de Saint Martin was published by Polity Press. He is the lead co-editor of the three-volume, *International Studies in Educational Inequality, Theory and Policy* (Dordrecht: Springer), which has just been published. Richard Teese has participated in major reviews of Australian education as well as conducting historical research into curriculum and student learning outcomes. Richard holds a Ph.D from Monash University and has been visiting scholar at the Centre de Sociologie Européenne.

Ludger Woessmann is Professor of Economics, especially Economics of Education, at the University of Munich and holds a joint appointment as Head of the Department *Human Capital and Innovation* at Ifo Institute for Economic Research. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Kiel and holds additional university degrees from the University of Kent at Canterbury, Marburg, Advanced Studies Program at Kiel and Technical University Munich. Before receiving the Chair at the University of Munich, he had been working at Kiel Institute for World Economics and Ifo Institute for Economic Research in Munich. Woessmann has spent research visits at Harvard University, the National Bureau of Economic Research, Stanford University and Aarhus Business School. His main areas of research include the economics of education, with special focus on microeconomic analyses of international student achievement tests, as well as the economics of growth and innovation. His research has been published in leading international journals, including the *Economic Journal*, the *European Economic Review*, *Economic Policy* and the *Journal of Economic Growth*. Woessmann is coordinator of the EU-funded European Expert Network on the Economics of Education (EENEE), member of the Editorial Board of the *Economics of Education Review*, and Speaker of the Advisory Board of the Swiss Leading House "Economics of Education" at the University of Zurich. Among others, he was awarded the European Investment Bank Prize 2001, the Young Economist Award of the European Economic Association 2003 and the Bruce H. Choppin Memorial Award of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement 2005.

***All country presenters and participants are considered vital for the success of this conference. We apologise for the fact that their short bios are not included in this document due to time and space constraints and want to thank them for their active participation.**